



Power Outage Safety Tips

As Hurricane Sandy made landfall Monday evening, and continues to surge on her path of destruction up the East Coast, we are reminded once more that we are not immune to disasters. The best way to mitigate the impact of a disaster is to stay prepared before it hits – make a plan, build a kit, and stay informed.

Although hundreds of miles away, the effects of the storm can still be felt around the Hoosier state. In fact, the National Weather Service in Indianapolis has issued a Wind Advisory effective through 8pm tonight. High winds can cause trees and limbs to fall, bringing down power lines and causing widespread outages. It is important to stay away from these fallen lines as, though they may appear harmless, they could still be carrying a charge and therefore potentially be deadly.

You can prepare for outages before they occur by having a flashlight, a portable radio, and extra batteries on hand. If the power does go out, you should report the outage to IPL immediately at (317) 261-8111 so they can attempt to restore power as quickly as possible.

Other things to keep in mind during a power outage include:

- Never touch anything that is in contact with fallen wires, like tree limbs.
- Check on family members and neighbors, especially the elderly, to see if they need help.
- If you have an electric stove, make sure it is off to prevent a causing a fire once power is restored.
- Limit the number of times outside doors are opened in order to conserve heat.
- Never connect a portable generator to your home's wiring system without first disconnecting your home from the utility service.

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